

THE PASSWORD
By Ethel Lee Dayton

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The tables were turned. I laughed outright as I realized it. There, back in the timber, at a lonely spot which few would visit or pass, I had left a stalwart Mexican soldier tied hand and foot. Certainly I was safe from his pursuit until morning.

The way it had come about was this: For several days I had been located at Mayena with the U. S. troops. I was taking photographs for a series of magazine articles and had become quite well acquainted with Lieut. Harney Rossiter. Before coming to Mayena I had been for a week at Pulza. There I had met Miss Wentworth and her family. The impression made upon me by Miss Wentworth was a lasting one. When Lieut. Rossiter stated that he knew the Wentworths there was a friendly bond established between us at once. It suffered a severe strain my last hour in camp, however. Rossiter came to be looking anxious and distrustful.

"You told me you were going back to Pulza?" he said inquiringly.

"I've got to," I told him. "I left all the views I took in Chihuahua there, counting on picking them up on my homeward trip."

I did not tell Rossiter, of course, that I was glad of an excuse, as a return would naturally mean a second meeting with the charming Miss Wentworth.

"I got a letter about two hours since from Pulza," said the lieutenant, "which troubles me a good deal. You know the critical condition of affairs at Pulza. I have received private word that the native commandant there is about to be superseded by his former predecessor, Maceo. That means trouble, danger for Mr. Wentworth and his family.

"Why?" I asked with interest.

"Because Maceo is a rejected suit-

or of Miss Wentworth and it was through Mr. Wentworth that he was relieved of his official duties. Under the old regime that would mean little. With the present factional lines narrowing, it gives to the treacherous and revengeful Maceo the power of a tyrant and he will exert it.

"And your message to Mr. Wentworth would be?"

"To leave Pulza at once. To delay is to be caught in a net. Even you



I Passed No Habitation During the First Five Miles

will not find it easy to evade the guerrillas. Within 48 hours they may have their forces spread so that those south of the river here will be completely shut in."

"I think I understand," I said. "You are very kind to have all this consideration for the Wentworths, lieutenant."